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HON. B. F. RUSSELL is looming up in his candidacy for the Speakership.

It is stated that a ten-mile walk is a sure cure for the blues. Our Democratic friends should try the efficacy of this remedy.

REPUBLICANS will have a good reason for returning thanks tomorrow, but they should not forget to ask their Democratic friends who helped them out in the recent election, to partake of turkey with them.

THE closing session of the 53rd Congress convenes next Monday. The House will probably try to pass a number of popgun tariff reduction bills, but the Senate stands ready to block all such legislation.

THE bids for the \$50,000,000 bond issue were opened at the Treasury Department Saturday. The total number of bidders was 997, aggregating \$154,370,000. Nearly all the bidders offered a premium.

THE Second Adventists in the State of Washington are creating great excitement by proclaiming that the end of the world is drawing near. This, however, will not disturb the Democrats, for so far as they are concerned, the world came to an end on November 6th.

THE Democrats of St. Francois county are to send a petition to Congress protesting against any further reduction in the tariff on lead ore. There is consistency for you! We should like very much to know if these selfsame men voted for Judge Fox in the recent election.

PRINCESS ALIX, the bride-elect of the young Emperor of Russia, is to have dresses made of woven silver. Here is a chance for the silver producers to work off their surplus product. Let them turn it into cloth, and soon the price of silver will go up. Every woman will want a silver dress.

THE Trans-Mississippi Congress met in St. Louis last Monday. About 350 delegates are present, representing twenty States. This congress has met for the purpose of discussing matters of national welfare and will endeavor to discover and recommend what kind of legislation will be the most beneficial to the whole country.

KOLA, the defeated Populist candidate for Governor of Alabama, has called upon his followers to assemble at Montgomery on inauguration day and seat him in the Governor's chair. He claims that he was defeated by fraud, and swears, "by the grace of God," that he will be Governor of Alabama. The fool killer could find a steady job in Alabama.

WHILE it is probably true that our present monetary system should be altered to fit the times, Congress should go a little slow about amending the present laws, and try to discover just what system would be best for the country. It would not do to give up safety for the sake of having a little expansion in our currency.

In a speech made at Boston last Thursday, Thomas B. Reed in speaking of the Democratic defeat, said: "We could not bury them all, and I notice some ghosts of unburied bodies, 'to and fro flitting' burlesque, save in vulture's claw," and are still hoarsely murmuring about 'free raw materials' and foreign markets, and such topics of the under world."

THE younger members of the Brunswick Democratic Club of Brooklyn, on election night tore from the walls of the club room, a \$500 portrait of President Cleveland and jumped on it with both feet. This is but a forerunner of what is in store for Cleveland in 1896. The whole party will then take pleasure in throwing the boot into him.

A BOOKKEEPER in the National Shoe and Leather Bank, of New York, with the assistance of one outside accomplice, managed to embezzle \$254,000 of the bank's funds before his peculations were discovered. This case is simply one of many where the bank directors neglected their duties and left the safety of the bank to rest upon their implicit confidence in the integrity of its employees. No matter how trustworthy the employees a bank may be, the directors owe it the depositors to make a thorough examination of the bank's affairs at short intervals. While the bank's standing, as in the above case, may not be impaired by the peculations of its employees, the directors are called upon to make good the shortage, and thus have to pay for their own negligence.

Our friend across the street seems to have taken exception to a paragraph that recently appeared in these columns in which we held him responsible for the "sentiment expressed" toward this paper and its editor by his Belgrade correspondent "Observer," and because we said we could not see how a man of our friend's standing in the church could harbor such "unchristian-like opinions." We have learned from a reliable source that the man who wrote the "Observer" articles for the "Independent" has as good as admitted that he is in the pay of our friend across the street and he is, therefore, as much responsible for them as if they had emanated directly from him. And even if this were not the case, he gave his approval and endorsement to these letters and the sentiment they expressed by publishing them, and by disclaiming the responsibility he simply makes himself ridiculous. It was not our intention to assail our friend's standing as a deacon in the church, we only wished to intimate that if he would act a little more consistently he would not expose himself to so much criticism. Just to show how consistent he is, we will say that he tried in his article of last week to cast a slur upon our private character by intimating that we were trying to beat the county out of our taxes. Now our friend is either densely ignorant about the revenue laws (as he is upon pretty nearly every other subject), or he wilfully and maliciously tried to create a wrong impression. If he will take the trouble to look up the law upon the subject he will find that our property is not assessable until the first day of June, 1895; or the assessor will probably give him this information. As we were not a resident of this county until after June 1, 1894, our property could not legally be assessed until June 1, 1895.

Our friend is right in one respect. We admit that we stooped beneath the dignity of a gentleman when we opened a controversy with a man who has not the courage to take upon himself the responsibility of the acts of his hiring, and who further condemns his own course in with these words: "If I had the last three months of my life to live over it would be entirely different." With this we close all discussion with our friend across the street until we know where he is "at."

## Democratic Dissension.

THE only source of comfort for Democrats in the matter of their recent terrible defeat is the theory that the were beaten by the stay-at-home vote. They point to the fact that their party did not anywhere poll its full strength, and claim that this indicates only that a large number of Democrats neglected to vote without intending to promote Republican success; but they do not tell us why all these Democrats remained away from the polls. The campaign was certainly an active one, and the importance of the election was well understood. Every Democrat knew that the question involved was that of endorsing or condemning the course of his party since it assumed control of the government. There could not have been a stronger inducement presented for a man to vote who believed in that

party and wished to see it prosper; and yet we are asked to accept the idea that tens of thousands of good Democrats deliberately staid at home and allowed the Republicans to achieve one of the most notable victories in the history of our politics. It will not do to say that they were simply indifferent, or that they did not see the necessity of casting their ballots. The average Democrat is best known by his eagerness to vote as often as possible; and when he misses an opportunity of that kind, we may be sure that he is influenced by considerations of more than ordinary force and significance.

In the present instance, the explanation lies in the fact that the Democratic party is hopelessly divided against itself. It has two wings that cannot be made to flap in harmony; the antagonism between them is so pronounced and acrimonious that either of them is less willing to see the other succeed than to permit the party as a party to be defeated. The main causes of dissension are the tariff and the currency, and the line of division is as much a sectional one as that which used to exist on the slavery issue. It is well known that the Eastern Democrats are quasi-protectionists and anti-inflationists, while the Western and Southern Democrats are tariff smashers and free silverites. These differences are of a kind that cannot be compromised, and the more they are discussed the wider the breach becomes. Thus the ties that bind men to the party are loosened, and the advantages of discipline are lost, and defeat is invited by lack of coherence and unanimity. The recent campaign was one of constant pulling at cross purposes on the part of these two elements. They were not united upon principles or policies, and the result was not only a large desertion from the party, but a still larger refusal to vote because of the feeling that it was better for the Republicans to win than for Democratic trifling and duplicity to be encouraged. There is little hope of improvement in this respect. The Eastern element of the party entertains views that the Western and Southern contingents will never adopt; and it is just as certain that the opinions held by these latter contingents will never be adopted by the Eastern element. It is an irreconcilable separation, an irrepressible conflict. The Democrats who staid at home this year are likely to do the same thing two years hence; or, if they vote, the majority of them will be more apt to support the ticket of some other party than that of the one with which they have heretofore acted.

## Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 23. Republican Senators are good-naturedly serving notice upon Democrats that no tariff tinkering will be allowed at the approaching session of Congress, no matter what Mr. Cleveland may or may not recommend in his message. That the notice is jocularly served does not indicate that it was intended for a joke. On the contrary, the Republican Senators were never more in earnest. They are fully determined that the country shall have the rest which was promised on the stump, if a Republican Congress was elected. They would, of course, prefer that Democratic Senators amicably allow this rest, but are determined that the country shall have it even if they have to fight every hour of the remainder of the 53d Congress. The Democrats cannot by neglecting this notice secure the passage of any popgun tariff bills, but such action on their part would result in forcing an early extra session of the 54th Congress, to pass the appropriation bills which will be left unacted upon by the present Congress. It is left for the Democratic Senators to choose. They know that under the present rules of the Senate it will be an easy matter for the Republicans to block the Senate during the entire session, if they consider it necessary to do so, and they also know that those rules are not going to be changed.

Another foreign fluke must be charged up against the administration. Japan has diplomatically, but positively refused Mr. Cleveland's offer to mediate between it and China, which was made without the shadow of a constitutional right to do so, solely because China, instigated by England, asked

him to do so. Mr. Cleveland ought to rejoice that Japan refused his offer. The refusal saves him from a predicament that would have been decidedly disagreeable, and might have been worse, for Congress might have interposed its authority to prevent his carrying out his offer had it been accepted.

Judge Robinson, of Goldsboro, N. C., one of the six members of the State Supreme Court elected on the fusion ticket, is in Washington, partly on business and partly to rest. Speaking of the political revolution in his State, he said: "The break in the solid south is, in my opinion, permanent. I have always been a Republican, and am proud to see the grand old party making headway in the south, for I think it will be the best thing in the world for the prosperity of the south that its citizens should divide politically, as they do in other sections of the country. Although the triumph over Democracy was won this time by fusion, my belief is that hereafter there will be a clean, square fight in North Carolina between Democrats and Republicans. The newly elected legislature will repeal the present unjust election laws, and in the future our elections will be conducted on a higher plane." Judge Robinson thinks that Marion Butler is sure of being elected to the full term in the Senate and that Vance's unexpected term will be filled by one of the half dozen Republicans whose candidacy has been announced.

How any man with a normal supply of self respect can remain in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet is one of those things which no man can find out. He doesn't treat the members of his official family with half the respect that the average head of a big business enterprise does his lieutenants. In fact, he doesn't treat them with any respect at all times. There isn't a single member of the cabinet who has not been severely snubbed by Mr. Cleveland, and the snubbing has in every case been done in such a manner that others have known of it. This week he gave the entire cabinet a snubbing by not coming in from his country residence to attend the regular cabinet meeting, at which the members of the cabinet remained for more than two hours for his would be royal highness to appear. He didn't appear, nor did he even take the trouble to telephone to the White House explaining his absence, although there was a private wire at his disposal. Is it any wonder that Mr. Cleveland is sometimes spoken of as being discourteous and boorish? Private Secretary Thayer tried to shield Mr. Cleveland by saying that he received a telephone message early in the morning saying that Mr. Cleveland would not come in, but that he forgot to notify the members of the cabinet. Commander-in-chief Lawler, of the G. A. R., has been in Washington several days engaged in carrying out the policy adopted at late national encampment, at Pittsburgh, of trying to get justice done to the soldiers and soldier's widows who have been dismissed from office in defiance of law. He has a long list of violations of the law, most of which occurred in the Treasury and Interior departments. Secretaries Carlisle and Hoke Smith having shown what appears to have been an absolute defiance of the law. This list he desires to place in Mr. Cleveland's own hands. He is determined that it shall not be pigeon-holed by some subordinate, if he can prevent it.

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